

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 14-16 and 42 are now pending in the case. Claims 1-2 and 14-16 had been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Hsu et al US Pat. No. 6,183,703. The above amendments are believed to overcome the rejection.

Hsu et al teaches placing a combustion band catalyst 92, a reforming band catalyst 90 and an electrode material 50B all on the same surface (face or side) of a flat ceramic electrolyte substrate 50 (See Fig. 5, Col. 9, lines 36-46; Col10, line 46- Col. 11, line 15). Independent claim 1 has be amended to recite “the reaction vessel comprising a plurality of substrates, each of the substrates having a first and a second surface, and wherein the first and second surface are located on opposite sides of the substrate and an endothermic reaction catalyst overlying the first surface, and an exothermic reaction catalyst overlying the second surface,...” Independent claim1, as now amended, is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the references of record. Claim 1 has also been amended to correct a typographical error in line 4.

Newly added claim 42, depends form claim 1, and recites “wherein the substrate comprises a metal ...” This limitation would not have been obvious from Hsu et al that teaches the use of a ceramic electrolyte substrate 50.

Similarly, independent claim 14 has been amended to recite “the reaction vessel including a plurality of substrates, each of the substrates having a first and a second surface, and wherein the first and second surfaces are located on opposite sides of the substrate, and an endothermic reaction catalyst overlying the first surface, and an exothermic reaction catalyst overlying the second surface,...”. Claim 14, as now amended, is believed to patentably define the invention over the references of record.

Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and has been amended to recite "wherein the substrate comprises at least one of stainless steel, copper, aluminum, a composite or polymer based materials. Claim 15 is not obvious from Hsu et al which teaches to use a ceramic electrolyte material for the substrate 50.

Please charge the Assignee Deposit Account No. 07-0960 the fee for newly added claim 42.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims now in the case.

Respectfully submitted,



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